

I would strongly suggest against granting the Bell petition to remove regulation from the DSL market. My local Bell affiliate (SBC) does not offer the same level of service as many of the independent ISPs, nor do they offer all the features I want. For instance, I prefer to have a semi-permanent IP address (static IP) so I can run Internet servers easily from my home. SBC does not provide static IPs to residential customers, and running a server usually violates their terms of service. The local cable monopoly also has similar restrictions for residential customers.

The internet was built as a network of peers, where all nodes can be both producers and consumers; SBC and other ILECs as well as cable providers are much more comfortable with a model more like TV: only a very few nodes produce content (at high cost), and all other nodes can only receive. Reducing competition in the DSL and Cable markets will result in a reduction of the democracy of the Internet, and freedom in general.

Thank you for reading my comments.